

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Crane Kemlite, Inc.

#### Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

#### Crane Kemlite Identifies Opportunities For Continuous Improvement

##### Client Profile:

Crane Kemlite Corporation is a manufacturer of fiberglass panels. Located in Jonesboro, Arkansas and established in 1991, the company currently employs 130 people.

##### Situation:

For several years, Crane Kemlite Corporation (Kemlite) has been pursuing lean manufacturing and Six Sigma as a means of achieving higher levels of performance. The initiative has been well received by plant personnel and continues to spread throughout the organization. The company's Six Sigma Black Belt team determined that individuals from "Gemba" level operations needed more formal exposure to the disciplines extolled by lean manufacturing. The team selected several key Kemlite employees to participate in future training programs offered by the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network (the Network), a NIST MEP network affiliate. The team also determined that the plant needed to formally implement workplace organization practices (5S).

##### Solution:

The Network provided Lean 101 seminars to Kemlite designated employees, and followed up with team building exercises facilitated by a Network resource specialist from the Arkansas State University team. Following the team building training, the Network conducted a two-day 5S kaizen event on a specified area of Kemlite's manufacturing line. With the Network's help, Kemlite employees established a model cell representing 5S standards. Kemlite plans to implement 5S practices in all areas of the plant.

##### Results:

Trained key employees in principles of lean manufacturing.  
Organized workplace to remove inefficiencies and improve productivity.  
Adopted continuous improvement plan.

##### Testimonial:

"The training and kaizen event implementation assistance we received from the Arkansas Manufacturing Extension Network allowed us to demonstrate to our employees how the concepts of 5S can be utilized to help maintain our facilities in an orderly and safe manner."

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Kerry Muegge, Six Sigma Process Manager